IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 3, line 2, and ending at line 14, as follows.

--Japanese Utility Model Publication Nos. 47-18688 and 47-18689 disclose an arrangement which assumes a stripe-shaped filter as a color filter, and separates rays into ordinary and extraordinary rays using a plane-parallel plate made of, e.g., quartz having birefringence to image them on an image sensing surface so as to reduce a spurious color signal generated when the spatial frequency of an object is synchronized with the color filter. ~~Especially~~ In particular, Utility Model Publication No. 47-18689 discloses an arrangement that cuts out a single crystal of quartz so that its optic axis (Z-axis) makes an angle of around 45° with the entrance and exit surfaces of the plane-parallel plate.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 16, line 16, and ending at line 27, as follows.

--According to further aspect of the invention, the image sensing unit comprises a first birefringence plate made of a uniaxial single crystal, a second birefringence plate made of a uniaxial single crystal, and the image sensing element has a rectangular image sensing surface~~, and an~~. An orthogonal projection of an optic axis of the first birefringence plate onto an entrance or exit surface is substantially parallel to a long side of the image sensing surface, and an orthogonal projection of an optic axis of the second birefringence plate makes substantially 45° with the long side of the image sensing surface.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 17, line 1, and ending at line 20, as follows.

--According to further aspect of the invention, the image sensing unit comprises a first birefringence plate made of a uniaxial single crystal, a second birefringence plate made of a uniaxial single crystal and a third birefringence plate made of a uniaxial single crystal~~, and the~~. The image sensing element has a rectangular image sensing surface~~, and an~~. An orthogonal projection of an optic axis of the first birefringence plate onto an entrance or exit surface makes substantially 45° with a long side of the image sensing surface, an orthogonal projection of an optic axis of the second birefringence plate onto the entrance or exit surface makes substantially 45° with the orthogonal projection of the optic axis of the first birefringence plate onto the entrance or exit surface, and an orthogonal projection of an optic axis of the third birefringence plate onto the entrance or exit surface makes substantially 90° with the orthogonal projection of the optic axis of the first birefringence plate onto the entrance or exit surface.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 21, line 16, and ending at page 22, line 5, as follows.

--Conditional formulas (1) and (2) numerically describe features of the arrangement of the optical low-pass filter of the present invention, and express optical setting ranges of the angle θ the Z-axis of the uniaxial single crystal, such as lithium niobate which has a larger refractive index difference between ordinary and extraordinary rays than quartz, makes with the normal to the entrance surface of the birefringence

plate. The ranges specified by formulas (1) and (2) correspond to hatched regions shown in Fig. 1 that shows the relation of equation (4) mentioned above, which expresses the separation distance between ordinary and extraordinary rays per unit thickness of the birefringent plate. When an angle that satisfies conditional formula (1) or (2) is set, the birefringence plate can become 1.2 to 3 times thicker than that when $\theta = 45^{\circ}$.--